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ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF ADDRESSES JOURNALISTS

PY211429 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Army Commander in Chief Cristino Nicolaides hosted a dinner last night for the military journalists and correspondents accredited to the army. The dinner, which was hosted on the occasion of the Christmas and year-end festivities, was held in the General San Martin Room at the Libertador Building. Army officer and media representatives participated in the dinner. Lieutenant General Nicolaides was accompanied by Army Chief of Staff Edgardo Nestor Calvi and by Army Secretary Mario Piotti.

Lieutenant General Nicolaides addressed the journalists during the dinner. Here is his message:

[Begin Nicolaides recording] The Argentine journalists, who are objective observers of reality, know that the somewhat unprecedented number of current difficulties will serve to test the country for some time. The setbacks and difficulties should be resolved with prudence and good sense, because they pose significant and serious risks.

The characteristics of our situation require more and more that those persons in charge of reporting on the events as well as those who are directly or indirectly charged with facing them not waste any opportunity to exchange views that might help us to effectively overcome the present situation. I believe that making an overall and careful study of the situation in order to find out its causes and conducting an effective dialogue so as to understand its significance and extent is the most approriate, rational and truly political means to confront the present problem-stricken period and to attain a common goal.

Let the country have a democratic and stable government. The army, which is firmly committed to attaining this objective, is ready to take the pertient steps without affecting peace and security. The army strongly wishes to maintain and preserve the peace and security of all Argentine people, regardless of their political stand and of the criticisms that might be raised against the service.

I think we know our journalists. We are certain that all journalists believe, the same as this service which I have the honor of heading does, that neither material nor spiritual damage will take place in Argentina as a means of repression or for political purposes. For this reason, I reassert to you and through you to the media, that the army is and always will be ready to cooperate with the media and to listen to its concerns. [end recording]

AIR FORCE COMMANDER ON INSTITUTIONALIZATION

PY230012 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2024 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (TELAM) -- The Air Force Commander in Chief, Lt Gen Augusto Jorges Hughes, has said that the proposed national agreement is not a political trap and added that the supreme objective of the nation is the institutionalization that will take place during the first months of 1983.

Hughes made these remarks at the reception which he held for journalists accredited to air force headquarters. During this reception he also spoke of burning issues such as the consequences of the Malvinas confict, the problem of the missing people, court behavior toward administrative corruption -- he mentioned the cases of Propaganda 2, Government Oil Deposits and Yacyreta -- foreign debt, the status of lower income sectors, the lifting of political and union restrictions, the social doctrine of the church and the national agreement.

He said that the mechanisms and the timetable of the elections will be set up in agreement with the political leadership of the nation and indicated that the proposed solution is not a political trap, emphasizing that institutionalization is the supreme objective of the nation.

First of all, the air force commander in chief evaluated positive developments after the Malvinas conflict and said that he wished to "convey to you what the air force thinks about them." In this regard he indicated that the military junta was dissolved as a consequence of the Malvinas conflict. Act No 228, dated June 22, 1982, established that the institutionalization must be carried out by the first months of 1984 and in the second annex the national executive branch is directed to agree -- with leading national sectors -- upon the essential aspects of a political, economic and social plan that will be followed until the full institutionalization of the nation. This means that this document put an end to the philosophy of the process in keeping with which there were objectives but no deadlines. Hughes went on to say that since then there has been a deadline, a deadline for institutionalization, and this deadline is the first months of 1984. At the same time we have a supreme objective, an objective which I believe is shared by all the sectors of the nation.

He then added that the institutionalization must be achieved with the contributions of all the sectors of the nation. I would like to make it clear, he said, that many times words are given opposite meanings, but taken in context all this means is that we must discuss, talk about and finally agree upon the course the government should take to achieve institutionalization.

The two objectives established by Act 228, Hughes said, were established before the current junta was assembled. I would like to stress this because there have been people who have said that the proposal to seek a national agreement and the setting of the date for turning over power to the new government were political maneuvers of the junta.

He added: "When on 17 August this year I took over as commander in chief of the air force I made a speech in which I conveyed a warning and at the same time voiced the stand of the air force, a stand which is still valid." Hughes went on to read portions of his speech during the ceremony held at the Cordoba Air Force School underlining the part which dealt with the respect that every man deserves in keeping with the social doctrine of the church.

He recalled that at that time he said that no compromises or backstage promises, no electoral scheming or attempts at holding on to power forever will provide solutions to current national problems. We do not believe that only we hold the truth and are enlightened, but we are convinced that without sincerity there will be no faith, nor unity nor projects to cary out together to achieve the nation we all desire.

He said: The air force reaffirms its will to bring about the institutionalization of the nation within the established deadlines. The civilian leaders carry a great responsibility in this task, which is no mere struggle for power. If we truly want to live within the framework of the law and bring stability to institutions, we must behave with the mutual respect that allows a free exchange of ideas.

The air force chief then said that during the efforts to reassemble the military junta each sector had to give up a little bit in order to fulfill the desire of the armed forces and of many other sectors of the nation. "There was a general call for the junta to be reassembled," Hughes emphasized. He said that "each member of the junta gave up a bit to preserve the unity of the armed forces. This was the first step toward the unity of the nation."

He added: Act No 231, dated September 21, 1982, by which the junta was reassembled reaffirms, in item 5, the decision included in Act No 228 to the effect that the government must conclude the institutionalization of the nation in the first months of 1984 and that the national executive branch will agree, with the representatives of the leading national sectors, upon the essential aspects of a political, economic and social plan that will be followed until the nation is institutionalized. Thus, when the junta was reassembled it reaffirmed the objectives outlined in a prior act of the armed forces.

Hughes said that when the junta was reassembled it had to face several problems which could be divided into two areas. First of all there were certain things which various sectors used at the time to attack the armed forces: the domestic and foreign economic situation, the Malvinas conflict, the missing people, and the administrative lack of honesty or corruption, which some called illegal deals. So, the junta had to clear up all these aspects.

Hughes explained that in the field of economics the national executive and its team had to deal with the foreign part of the economy, that is, a foreign debt of $40 billion and $2.4 billion due on 30 July. The necessary steps were taken to prevent our nation from lapsing into the immoral position of defaulting on its debts and by now we can say that we have recovered foreign trust.

At the domestic level we should recall the status of lower income sectors who saw the purchasing power of their salaries dwindling. The national executive branch was sensitive enough to implement several salary hikes in August, hikes which also benefited pensioners, Hughes said. He admitted that the sensitivity of the government regarding the question of salary hikes was tied to the economic stability of the nation. I am aware that the government must act with fairness toward everybody, as the social doctrine of the church advocates, and that those who are economically neglected or less fortunate deserve special attention, not for demagogic reasons but out of sheer patriotism.

He added: "In this regard everything possible is being done, but this junta will end its term in office when it turns over the government and it cannot upset the economy because the next government will have to deal with it and the junta wants the next government to be strong."

He went on to speak about the Malvinas conflict and said that when the new junta took over, an analysis of the operations was underway. This analysis is difficult, it will take a long time and it will be a historical document because it will state the position of the armed forces. It must be done methodically. At the same time, a commission has been appointed to evaluate the decisions made in the fields of politics and military strategy. All this is being done and the idea is to release the information before the new government takes over.

Hughes said that the subject of the missing people is one of long standing but because of the increased attention it is awakening internationally it seems to be something new, moreover, something that has happened under this junta. This problem started before the government of this process, but the junta carries the responsibility of compiling the data and of keeping the people properly informed, and that is what the government is doing.

Speaking about the so-called illegal deals, General Hughes said that this subject provided the ammunition for constant attacks on the government, making it appear that it wanted to ignore or cover them up.

On the contrary, these affairs are being dealt with in the appropriate manner, he said. He went on to read a list of some of the cases which are being investigated and mentioned the courts which are handling each case: Propaganda 2 (Third Correctional and Criminal Court); government oil deposits debts (the same court); Yacyreta (the same court); foreign debt (Second Correctional and Criminal Court); adulteration of fuels (same court); alleged illegal deals made by Central Bank officials when liquidating the Latin American banks (Fifth Correctional and Criminal Court); the Central Bank's failure to control financial organizations (same court); the Oddone Bank affair (Fourth Court); the BIR [expansion unknown] Bank affair (Fifth Court); economic crimes committed in the Union of Mechanics and related automotive transport workers (same court); charges of the Greco Group against members of the economic team (same court); the affair of the Cattlemen's Bank (Fourth Court); and the alleged supply of fuel oil to the British task force in the South Atlantic (First Court).

The other area which posed problems, according to Hughes, was the design of the government plan. Initially, in order to set up the plan of government, each government sector was contacted to find out about the most difficult issues, to choose what would interest and what should be discussed with each sector. Then the junta issued a message giving the guidelines and directives to the national executive branch.

At this point the air force commander in chief read certain paragraphs and highlights of the message of the junta asking for special attention in order to detect whether something in the letter or spirit of the message contradicts the national constitution or poses a political trap. In this regard he read the most salient portions of the instructions for the national executive branch related to the guidelines for the political course to be followed to achieve institutionalization.

General Hughes concluded by saying that the goal of the message and of the guidelines for national agreement was none other than the accomplishment of institutionalization itself and the desire to guarantee the new constitutional government a harmonious and orderly takeover.

"None of the guidelines for the national agreement offered to the citizenry implies ties on the new government," Hughes said. He added that many of the claims which the various sectors are now making against the government were part of the guidelines which were, in fact, an invitation to discuss these aspects in order to agree upon a policy which would take into account the interests of the parties involved.

Hughes reiterated that the institutionalization is the supreme objective of the nation and concluded his lecture urging all sectors to put their own factional interests in second place and to give priority to the institutionalization, which is the basis of the nation's future.

JET FIGHTERS RECEIVED FROM PERU, VENEZUELA

PY222155 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Dec 82 p 11

[By A.M.W.-S.]

[Text] Argentina has received a shipment of jet fighters to compensate for its heavy losses during the South Atlantic conflict with Great Britain earlier this year, reliable sources said yesterday.

They said the planes, which include French-made Mirages, had been shipped from Peru and Venezuela and carried on flat-back lorries from the port to aeroparque, from where they were flown to different air force bases around the country.

Hercules C-130 carrier planes were used to fly some disassembled jets and spare parts, they said.

The sources said Argentina had sought the planes from Latin American countries after Israel demanded cash payment to provide similar equipment.

The metropolitan "Aeroparque" Airport was cordoned off early on Sunday morning to allow for the convoy bringing the jets and spares to make its way to the airport.

The sources said all air traffic into and out of the airport had been cancelled while the operation lasted.

They said spares and aircraft are usually sent to the main air force base at El Palomar by train from the Buenos Aires port.

GOVERNMENT FREES FORMER PERONIST OFFICIALS

PY221431 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1227 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (TELAM) -- The executive branch has decided to release Juan Carlos Basile and Rodolfo Antonio Ponce, former under secretary for housing affairs and former deputy during the Peronist government respectively, the Interior Ministry announced. The ministry reported that their release was ordered by Decree No 1557 dated 20 December and that "their release does not exempt them from having to answer any pending charges before the courts."

LABOR MINISTRY REPLACES MILITARY INTERVENTORS

PY221957 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2202 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Dec (DYN) -- It has been officially reported that the Labor Ministry today designated normalizing committees to replace the military interventors of the Light and Power Workers Federation and the Textile Workers Association, two of the largest unions in Argentina. The reports were released while a delegation of the General Labor Confederation on Brasil Street was awaiting a government answer to its demand for equal treatment in the normalization of the intervened unions.

LABOR MINISTER ANNOUNCED SALARY INCREASES

PY222214 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2045 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (NA) -- This afternoon Labor Minister Hector Villaveiran announced that the increase in take-home salaries will be 14.15 percent, with a maximum of $1 million pesos. The minister explained that for this month only and only for those persons for whom the 14.15 percent increase does not reach the sum of $1 million pesos there will be a bonus to make up the difference between the actual raise and 1 million pesos. Minister Villaveiran made this announcement to the leaders of the General Labor Confederation (CGT) of Azopardo Street at the end of a meeting held at the Labor Ministry. This information was disclosed to the media by the union leaders.

ADEPA PROTESTS ATTACKS, WANTS PRESS FREEDOM

PY221841 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0149 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA) -- The Argentine Newspaper Owners Association (ADEPA) expressed "its categorical repudiation today of the aggressions carried out against reporters during the public march." ADEPA noted that "it submitted a formal protest note to the interior minister in which it requests an exhaustive investigation of the incident."

ADEPA stated that "those involved must be properly punished so as to avoid a repetition of incidents of this nature which undermine the freedom of the press."

In a communique issued after an executive board meeting that was held today, ADEPA praised the courts' attitude regarding QUORUM and LINEA magazines which were closed by the executive branch. Moveover, the organization "praised Judge Ramon Estrada for honoring the court injunction filed by the representatives of these magazines and as a result of which the closure ordered by the executive branch was lifted."

However, ADEPA disagrees with the judge who believes that "those measures adopted in view of the state of siege should be temporary measures." The organization disagrees with this position since "press publications cannot be suspended for even one second." ADEPA noted that "mass media directors can be held responsible for crimes, but not the mass media itself." ADEPA added: "To support the theory of a temporary closure would mean to leave the existence of the freedom of the press open to subjective arbitrary actions, something which is inadmissible."

During the meeting the ADEPA board also studied "a report submitted by the Santa Fe Interior Ministry regarding the adoption of preventive measures in view of threats issued against the newspaper EL FEDERAL." ADEPA added that "the newspaper had reported it had been threatened for having charged that the Sante Fe governor was involved in dealings concerning retirement benefits."

In its statement ADEPA also pointed out that it is in favor "of sharing all actions with the Argentine Bar Association aimed at supporting its defense within the courts." The statement adds that therefore "all member associations of the Argentine Bar Association will be invited to appoint representatives" so that they may act jointly with directors of those members of the media that are affected by measures restricting the freedom of the press.

ADEPA also stated that representatives from the Press Supply Cooperative and other organizations that include as members editors from the interior of the country were present at a dinner held last night.

At the time ADEPA Chairman Luis Etchevehere noted that this event was appropriate for reasserting "its claims for the exercise of freedom of the press in Argentina."

SUPREME COURT REQUESTS MERCURI'S FREEDOM

PY222022 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1443 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (DYN) -- It has been reported in the courts that the Supreme Court has summoned the executive branch to give Enrique Jose Mercuri restricted freedom or to allow his departure from the country within 15 days. Mercuri was detained on 8 August 1975, accused of subversive activities. By a majority of votes, the court has reiterated its doctrine on "the irrelevance of maintaining the restrictive measures" of the state of siege "in their most rigorous form," because doing so "exceeds the requirements of the current situation in the country."

COMMANDERS OF THREE POWERFUL REGIMENTS REPLACED

PY221520 Paris AFP in Spanish 0133 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Excerpts] La Paz, 21 Dec (AFP) -- It was learned here today that while the cogoverning Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) was demanding that a sentence be handed down against former Interior Minister Col Luis Arce Gomez, who is currently being tried by the armed forces' supreme court, the army commander in chief, Gen Simon Sejas Tordoya, reported that the commanders of three important units had been replaced by officers of the so-called institutionalist line. The military sector was flabbergasted by the statements made by Tordoya, who reported that Colonels Edmundo San Martin, Jose Luis Jemio and Miguel Padilla Candia, commander of the powerful Ingavi, Tarapaca and Calama Regiments, had been replaced. The new commanders of those regiments are: Colonels Rolando Saravia (a former minister under Gen David Padilla) Sergio Osinaga (who was linked to the government of Gen Juan Jose Torres) and Jose Sejas, all of them known to have institutionalist leanings.

NEW NICARAGUAN ENVOY COMMENTS ON RELATIONS

PY221315 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Nicaraguan Ambassador to Bolivia Ramon Leets Castillo has stated that the resumption of diplomatic relations with Bolivia represents an expression of continental solidarity with the Bolivian democratic process.

In his first contact with local and national reporters upon presenting his credentials to the president of the republic, the Nicaraguan ambassador stated: [Begin Leets Castillo recording] We feel that the resumption of relations with Bolivia, and our presence here, implies a continental solidarity with our brotherly Bolivian people and government. [end recording]

Relations between Bolivia and Nicaragua will be more of a political nature, the Nicaraguan ambassador stated. [Begin Leets Castillo recording] We believe more than anything in practical relations and that we will be able to intensify or to resume our economic relations with Bolivia, because our country will have a permanent mission here, that is, we will have a complete embassy here, and its representatives here will be made up of (?simple people). [end recording]

Referring to an armed counterrevolutionary group which reportedly receives the support of certain sectors of the Honduran Army -- a Nicaraguan neighbor -- the Nicaraguan ambassador stated: [Begin Leets Castillo recording] We feel that the situation is quite serious, because as is well known internationally some sectors of the Honduran Army are supporting the counterrevolutionary groups, which number 5,000 well-armed men and who are also supported by the Reagan administration. Counterrevolutionary actions have been intensified, but we can say that our people and the Sandinist Peoples Army, the Interior Ministry, the Sandinist Peoples Militia and all the organized people are ready to defend our revolutionary process which has cost us so much. We know we are capable of defeating the counterrevolutionary movements which may enter the country and those who try to remain in the country. [end recording]

The Nicaraguan ambassador concluded by saying that this country's government is studying the electoral law which will be in force during the general elections scheduled for 1985.

OPPOSITION LEADERS FORM MULTISECTORIAL MOVEMENT

PY221535 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0002 GMT 22 Dec 82

[By Julio Cesar Villaverde]

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 21 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Opposition political, business and union leaders have created a multisectorial organization with the objective of achieving the democratization and economic recovery of Chile. This was reported today by the sponsors of this organization. They added that the group, made up of the majority of political parties, which are at present in recess, has decided to establish an organization of national consensus that will plan, carry out and evaluate those alternatives that will lead the Chilean people to the democratic institutionalization of the country.

Leaders of this group said at a press conference that among the political parties that are members of this multisectorial group are Christian Democracy, the rightist sectors of the National Party, the Socialist Party, factions of the Leftist Radical Party and the National Democratic Party. They added that organized workers, businessmen, unions and members of professional and academic organizations also signed a statement last month in this regard.

The statement notes that Chile is experiencing a deep political, economic and social crisis and that its citizens wish to express their concerns and develop their aspirations through those organizations, movements and personalities that represent them.

President Augusto Pinochet, who in March starts his second year of the new period established by the Constitution that was approved in 1980, has repeatedly rejected the possibility of a political opening. Political party activities have been prohibited since 1973. Moreover, General Pinochet has charged that politicians pursue personal goals, and he is firm on the implementation of the democratization program as established in the new Constitution.

The statement adds that in view of this, the signatories of this statement have decided to establish an organization called Plan for the Development of a National Consensus [Proyecto de Desarrollo para un Consenso Nacional] (Prodena). The leaders noted that the organization includes democratic sectors of different ideologies and that this is the most important consensus that has been achieved since the armed forces assumed power in 1973.

The statement adds that one of the objectives to be pursued by Prodena is to immediately take the path that will lead to the democratization of the country by establishing a specific transition timetable, establishing the legal conditions so that citizens may freely exercise their rights, restoring the basic rights of individuals and restoring the institutionality that has been abolished.

Moreover, the statement asserts that it is imperative for Chile to be trusted and respected again internationally so as to achieve a political, economic and cultural understanding with the rest of the world.

It adds: The Chilean people are capable of again overcoming the deep social and economic crisis we are experiencing, but this is a long and difficult path because our economic roots, which were established after many years of hard work, are undermined.

The present Chilean democratization process is established by the new Constitution that was approved in 1980 and that will be implemented gradually up until 1989 at which time political party activities will be restored and elections will be held.

The statement says that Prodena represents the large majority of those Chileans having a solid democratic background and that it is based on a pluralist consensus. The statement, which is signed by former Christian Democratic legislators Jorge Lavandero and Carlos Dupre, invited all Chileans to join the dialogue, analysis and agreement (that) will lead to a democratic alternative. The leaders mentioned numerous former legislators and representatives of several political trends who are members of the movement, which only excludes those who promote violence. They added that the objective is to achieve, as soon as possible, an agreement that will lead to a democratic solution for the country, one that is above personalities and ideologies.

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING INCREASE -- Santiago, 3 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- The National Institute of Statistics today reported that the cost of living in Chile rose 3.3 percent in November compared to 4.8 percent in October of this year and 0.2 percent in November 1981. Thus, accumulated inflation for the 11 months of this year is 19.3 percent as compared to 9 percent for the same period last year. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1931 GMT 3 Dec 82 PY]

FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIGURES -- From January to November of this year, the Central Bank has authorized foreign investments totaling $477.8 million. Over $356.9 million have already been invested. Those investments that have been authorized involve 32 countries and 1 international organization. Spain is in first place with 12 projects totaling $123 million; the United States is second with 20 projects totaling $103.6 million; third is the Netherlands with three projects totaling $74 million; fourth is the United Kingdon with 14 projects totaling $40.5 million and fifth Bermuda with one project totaling $38.4 million. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Dec 82 p C 7 PY]

TRADE BALANCE SURPLUS -- The Central Bank has reported that in November the trade balance surplus registered a slight increase and that it totaled $118.8 million. The report adds that in comparison to October, exports in November declined by 12.1 percent totaling $262.8 million while imports increased by 15.7 percent totaling $255 million. From January to November, exports totaled $3,449,000,000 while imports totaled $3,331,000,000. In comparison to the same period in 1981, exports decreased by 4.5 percent totaling $3,614,000,000 while imports decreased by 45 percent totaling $6,048,000,000. By the end of July, the trade balance registered a deficit totaling $61.1 million. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Dec 82 p B 2 PY]

IMPORT-EXPORT FIGURES -- According to a report of the Chilean Central Bank, during the period January-October 1982 Chilean imports amounted to $3,295,000,000, which represents a drop of 42 percent, while exports amounted to $3,105,000,000. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Dec 82 PY]

RECORD PETROLEUM PRODUCTION -- Mines Minister Samuel Lira has stated that in 1982 the National Petroleum Enterprise reached a record level of petroleum production with 2,480,000 cubic meters. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Dec 82 PY]

FINANCE MINISTER ON PENDING ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA221356 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Bogota -- The first decrees that President Belisario Betancur's government will issue based on Article 122 of the Constitution to clarify and alleviate the tax burden as well as to improve purchasing power [word indistinct] for public investments and functions will be announced today.

Finance Minister Edgar Gutierrez Castro has said that the first measures to be announced to the people before [words indistinct] tax rates on property, sales, income, occasional earnings and estimated income and the elimination of double taxes on corporations as well as the suspension of penalties if previously undeclared property or capital is then declared.

The government will also make a decision on real estate taxes which will not be increased because of the inflation but which will be subject to periodic fluctuations established by a permanent committee. The committee, which will be created by the national government, will consider climatic conditions, land productivity and other factors in making its decisions.

In reference to income and complementary tax rates, Minister Gutierrez Castro said that a simpler, clearer system will be put into effect. The system will be based on an expansion of the tax base thus resulting in lower tax rates for those in the higher income brackets. To reach this objective, it is necessary to reform the tax system, and the government is already preparing this reform.

The Cabinet, which began discussing the matter early Monday, will meet again today to decide on the final drafts of the decrees. These decrees will include measures to deal with an economic emergency to be in effect for a period of from 30 to 50 days.

President Betancur has asked all the ministers to be available at any time. Narino Palace officials have been told that they will have neither 25 December or 1 January off and that they will be free on the afternoons prior to these holidays. We are going to work hard during these days, the finance minister has said.

BRIEFS

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER -- The government has created the post of deputy foreign minister. Col Julio Londono Paredes has been appointed to this position. He has been secretary general of the Foreign Ministry for many years. [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Dec 82 PA]

FRANCE TO DELIVER 26 MIRAGE JETS IN NEXT 2 YEARS

PY221808 Paris AFP in Spanish 1650 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Reliable sources reported today that France will sell 26 Mirage-2000 combat jets, including two training planes, to Peru.

These planes will be delivered to Peru in two shipments, the first of which will include 16 planes that will be delivered within an 18-24 month period.

The Mirage-2000 is a French combat jet created by the Dassault-Breguet enterprise and by the National Association of Research and Construction of Aircraft Engines. Peru is the main Latin American client of the French combat jets. In 1968 it purchased 22 Mirage-5; in 1970 it purchased 15 Mirage-5 and 3 more in 1981. The Mirage-2000 competes in the international market with U.S. planes (the F-16, purchased by Venezuela), Soviet planes and Israeli planes (the Kfir, inspired by the Mirage-III).

AYACUCHO POLICE TO RECEIVE MODERN WEAPONS

PY221848 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 13 Dec 82 p 6

[Excerpt] Dr Sandro Mariategui, president of the Senate, reported yesterday that the number of policemen who are doing service in the zone of Ayacucho will be tripled so as to fulfill their objective: to weed out terrorism.

He also revealed that within the next few hours these troops will receive sophisticated weapons and communications equipment that will allow them to face any case of emergency.

He made these remarks a few minutes after visiting Ayacucho Mayor Jorge Jauregui Mejia at the police forces' hospital where the doctors are making all possible efforts to save his life.

TERRORIST MURDERS OFFICIAL IN AYACUCHO

PY221248 Paris AFP in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Ayacucho, Peru, 21 Dec (AFP) -- Walter Wong, the director of the National Institute of Culture (INC) of this department located in the southeastern Andean area of Peru, was murdered today by a terrorist who shot him three times at point-blank range. The murder occurred while Wong was in his office talking with his brother, who was also seriously wounded by two shots, one in the stomach and one in the chest.

The terrorist, presumably a member of the Maoist group Shining Path, fled as soon as he had committed the crime, which is to be added to the dozens that have been perpetrated in Ayacucho, which is currently in a state of emergency, and other localities by members of the group.

ISRAEL'S SHAMIR CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT

Commissions Created

PY221813 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2028 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 21 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Uruguay and Israel have agreed to create two permanent joint commissions that will study everything pertaining to economic, trade and cultural relations between the two countries.

The signing and exchange of the notes that create said commissions were carried out this afternoon at the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry on the penultimate day of the official visit to Uruguay by Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The economic agreement was signed by Shamir and his Uruguayan colleague, Carlos Maeso, while the cultural agreement was signed by the visiting foreign minister and the Uruguayan education and culture minister, Mrs Raquel Lombardo Betolaza.

Uruguayan Foreign Ministry sources said the mechanisms created by the economic agreement provide for high-level studies of the economic and trade relations between the two countries. The sources indicated that relations in this sector come under the terms of the 21 January 1968 trade and navigation agreement and the 12 June 1968 trade agreement. The joint cultural commission is the outcome of the Uruguayan-Israeli exchange agreement of 31 April 1953, the sources indicated.

Press Conference

PY230154 Buenos Aires Latin in Spanish 2135 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Montevideo, 22 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has stated that peace between Israel and the Arab states must be achieved through direct negotiation and (?without) any conditions. He also reconfirmed that the Camp David agreements with Egypt are in effect.

Shamir, who today ended an official visit to Uruguay that began on Sunday, stated that he is in favor of direct negotiations between Israel and each interested Arab country. Participation in the negotiations must be carried out without any previous condition, Shamir stated in a press conference a few hours before his departure.

He denied that the invasion of Lebanon has involved a political defeat for Israel, because the positive results of the Israeli action in that country are clear. Lebanon for the first time in may years is an independent state, he said. Beirut is again the capital of Lebanon and not of international terrorism. The positive effects will be seen within the next few days, when talks between Israel and the Lebanese Government begin, Shamir stated.

Shamir, who yesterday signed two economic cooperation and cultural exchange agreements with the Uruguayan Government, stated that in his meeting with President Gregorio Alvarez on Monday they discussed subjects related to the Middle East and to the strengthening of bilateral relations.

Shamir especially referred to the situation in his country and to the negotiations with Lebanon, and expressed satisfaction with the sincere friendship of the Uruguayan president toward Israel.

He said that during his talks with government officials they also discussed the subject of transferring the Uruguayan Embassy back to Jerusalem, but nothing concrete. Uruguay has its embassy in Tel Aviv.

We have strengthened friendship and cooperation between Uruguay and Israel, Shamir stated on summarizing the results of his visit. In addition to Argentina, Uruguay was the only other country included in the Israeli foreign minister's tour through Latin America.

Shamir arrived in Uruguay on Thursday and for 3 days held a round of private meetings with Israeli ambassadors accredited to Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay. Israeli sources stated that the meeting with ambassadors designated to different parts of the world is a common Foreign Ministry procedure to allow direct knowledge of regional situations and to draw up future lines of action.

IMF SETS GUIDELINES FOR $2.4 BILLION LOAN

PY222256 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1940 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 21 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Christian Brachet, head of the IMF delegation that is negotiating with the authorities of the Uruguayan economic team, said that the IMF has set the basic guidelines for an agreement through which it will grant Uruguay at $2.4 billion stand-by [given in English] loan.

The loan will be granted in installments every 3 months during 1983 and 1984. Brachet, director of the IMF River Plate Department, said that the largest part of the loan will be granted for a term longer than 7 years at an annual interest rate similar to the current one on the international market.

Brachet and the remaining members of the delegation left for Washington today, thus taking a short break in their activities, which will continue in Montevideo in early January. Uruguay started negotiating with the IMF in March.

Brachet was asked whether the IMF had had any influence on the Uruguayan Government's 26 November decision by which it replaced the controlled exchange rate system, which had been implemented more than 4 years ago, with a floating exchange system. After the change the dollar went from 13.80 pesos to approximately 30 pesos to the dollar.

Brachet stated that the IMF merely abides by the sad rules of arithmetic. It is true that the Uruguayan authorities discussed the adjustment policies they were about to make with us but it was really the government that decided what course to take.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE -- Former Education and Culture Minister Daniel Darrack has been named new Uruguayan ambassador to France. Darrack will retain his current duties as Uruguayan ambassador to UNESCO. [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Dec 82 PY]

U.S. ENVOY BRIGGS COMES UNDER COLUMNIST'S FIRE

PA221843 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Dec 82 p 10

["In a Few Words" column]

[Excerpts] Back to Their Old Tricks

Yesterday's issue of the newspaper YA carries a front-page report which I will not describe as stupefying because I have learned from experience and nothing shocks me.

Well then, YA says that at a dinner of opposition parties U.S. Ambassador Everest Big [as published] suggested "the nomination of General Paredes for president." That was the moment to get up from the table and, without saying goodbye or paying the bill, throw a glass of wine (or better yet, a bowl of hot soup) in his face and leave. This is what an honest politician would have done. However, any honest politician wouldn't have attended that dinner; in the first place because an honest politician would not agree to seriously discuss Panama's domestic affairs with an foreigner (Gringo, English, Russian or Cuban) who is unable to understand our situation or to give us advice about what we should do in our own house. The foreign dignitaries, whether imperialists or communists (it is increasingly difficult to distinguish between them), must be stopped cold: Don't meddle in what is none of your concern.

The hypothetical honest politician would have told the ambassador: Don't interfere in what is none of your business. If you like Paredes so much make him a U.S. citizen and nominate him for the presidency of your country. We don't want him, or any other gorilla or paragorilla [paragorila], or any wishy-washy civilian who abides by the irrational whims of the "army of internal occupation," to use this happy expression stated by Eduardo Santos.

This prig [as published] would have been an excellent ambassador during the first decade of our republic when, during the height of the biggs [as published] stick policy, no diplomat was needed, only a proconsul. But of course, Ambler Moss had his strongman and twig [as published] also wants to have his. Moss was the public relations chief for his strongman and twig wants to be the campaign manager [in English] of Padrone Parete [referring to General Paredes]. I wonder if the ambassador knows who Panama's new strongman really is. A mistake like that could cost him his post and something else, too.

However, I, like Groucho Marx, also have my connections. So that you can understand how well informed the Gringos are, here is a letter dated 20 September 1982 that Powell A. Moore, assistant secretary for congressional relations, wrote to a U.S. senator in response to a letter from that senator: "It is true that in the wake of President Royo's resignation on 30 July 1982, National Guard officers closed the country's newspapers, alleging that there were fears that Royo's constitutional replacement by Vice President de la Espriella would be misinterpreted." I don't know why. One only had to hear Royo's speech to realize that his vocal chords were broken or at least out of tune. After making other remarks along the same lines, Powell A. Moore said in conclusion: "We believe that the president's explicit commitment to respect freedom of the press and the fitting way in which the incident of the closing of the press was handled, shows that the military officers do not give the orders in Panama." Marvelous: Two million Panamanians are convinced of exactly the opposite.

POTENTIAL FOR PROBLEMS SEEN IN NUTTING STANCE

PA221600 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Dec 82 p 20

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo Rosas: "The End of the Third Bimonthly Period"]

[Text] A CRITICA article by our colleague Carlos Nunez said that there are serious differences of opinion between Gen Dennis McAuliffe, Panama Canal Commission administrator, and Gen Wallace Nutting, chief of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama. According to this article, General McAuliffe wants to eliminate the discriminatory salary scale which the United States arbitrarily imposed and which clearly violates stipulations of the Torrijos-Carter treaty. This scale is being applied to more than 2,000 Panamanian employees but General Nutting is violently opposed to this elimination.

The interesting part of all this is that the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors, which according to the treaty must establish the terms and conditions of employment, is never mentioned. This is because the Board of Directors is nothing more than a front by virtue of Law 96-70 and the Pentagon's decision.

This is not the first time we've found out about a conflict between the generals in regard to the elimination of the discriminatory salary scale. A Panamanian who was a member of the Board of Directors told us that during a board meeting in Washington a few months ago a consensus existed then among the Panamanian and U.S. board members. This consensus had the complete support of General McAuliffe but when the time came to vote, somebody instructed the chairman of the board, the assistant secretary of the army, to vote against what had been agreed before the meeting. We now know that the person who made this call was General Nutting.

What is the real reason for this conflict between the generals? It is simply the fact that General McAuliffe is more intelligent, more realistic and has a greater ability to anticipate solutions to obvious future problems.

General McAuliffe knows how President de la Espriella, Vice President Illueca, the Foreign Ministry, the unions operating in the Panama Canal Commission as well as the labor, student, professional and management organizations have closed ranks regarding this problem. He knows that if this situation is not resolved when the board meets in Panama in January 1983, the workers are going to paralyze the canal's operation. He also knows that any show of force to prevent this strike is going to turn into a serious and grave confrontation between Panama and the United States.

In contrast, General Nutting is a military officer who feels that he has enough political-military power in Panama to snuff out any labor action that might close the canal by invoking clauses of the neutrality treaty and the rights granted in Article 4 of the canal treaty.

General Nutting is not considering the fact that the Panamanian people will not peacefully permit U.S. military intervention.

Anyway, if Carlos Nunez' news is correct, and I have no reason to doubt it, the conflict between the generals can result in a problem of an unpredictable magnitude for relations between Panama and the United States.

We only have to wait and hope that good judgement will prevail over stinginess and arrogance.

COSTA RICA

OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY BEGIN TALKS WITH FMLN

PA230118 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0002 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] San Jose, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican Government has begun talks here with representatives of the FMLN of El Salvador as a result of a letter that the guerrillas sent to President Luis Alberto Monge in which they gave assurances that they would not interfere in Costa Rican affairs.

On instructions from the president, the contacts are being made by Manuel Carballo Quintana, deputy minister of the presidency, who on Tuesday received FMLN guerrillas in his office at Government House to discuss the letter sent by the top Salvadoran guerrillas. The FMLN's letter to President Monge is signed by five of the organization's top leaders: Ferman Cienfuegos, Salvador Cayetano Carpio, Shafick Jorge Handal, Joaquin Villalobos and Roberto Roca.

The letter states textually: "With all due respect, the FMLN informs you of its position regarding the speculation circulating in Costa Rica about alleged FMLN operations in that territory:

"1. The FMLN has not carried out operations in Costa Rican territory, and particularly denies any participation in the attempt to abduct a Japanese businessman that was reported in the newspapers.

"2. The FMLN follows a policy of nonintervention in Costa Rican domestic affairs; therefore, it is not sponsoring any type of military organization in that fraternal country.

"3. The FMLN has publicly proposed to the Salvadoran Government that it begin a direct dialogue without prior conditions, which is our contribution to peace in Central America."

Official sectors have remained absolutely silent regarding the first contact with the guerrillas.

PRESIDENT MONGE RECEIVES NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR

PA230301 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Yuriy Pavlov, the new Soviet ambassador to Costa Rica, presented his credentials to President Luis Alberto Monge this afternoon. Monge told Pavlov that the Sandinist commanders' behavior is affecting Costa Rica's relations with the Soviet Union. Monge also told Pavlov that he hoped that his presence here will help maintain respectful and cordial relations between Costa Rica and the Soviet Union. Monge said he preferred to speak frankly to the Soviet ambassador regarding the Nicaraguan situation and the Sandinist commanders' behavior.

President Monge talked with the new Soviet ambassador for almost 40 minutes, and gave him a broad explanation about the Nicaraguan situation and the Sandinist government's behavior toward Costa Rica. The Soviet ambassador listened to the president's explanation respectfully and attentively. Pavlov did not comment, but at all times showed that his aim is to improve relations between the Soviet Union and Costa Rica.

In his explanation regarding the behavior of the Sandinist commanders, the president made clear that Costa Rica wants to maintain its neutrality and to live in peace.

The new Soviet Ambassador's main objective is to improve relations between Costa Rica and the Soviet Union. He was soberly dressed in a military uniform and was wearing four stars when he presented his credentials to President Monge and Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez this afternoon. Pavlov said he hopes that relations between our two countries will improve substantially, that trade ties will be strengthened and that during his stay in Costa Rica we will be able to strive together to improve joint cooperation.

Asked about the cool relationship between our two countries due to the participation of Soviet Embassy personnel in internal affairs such as strikes and support for communist labor unions, Pavlov replied that the Soviet Union never interferes in the domestic affairs of other countries. Regarding the expulsion of several Soviet Embassy personnel who were linked to a banana strike during the previous administration, Pavlov said he was told what had happened to those persons, but that the expulsion was unwarranted. Asked for an opinion regarding the Central American situation, Pavlov said he is the ambassador to Costa Rica, and that his mission is limited to this country.

ENTRY VISA NOW REQUIRED OF CENTRAL AMERICANS

PA221433 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Visitors to Costa Rica, as well as those who wanted to go to other Central American countries, encountered problems because they did not have visas on their passports. A new law states that all Central Americans must have a visa to enter Costa Rica. Many who wanted to go to Guatemala were not able to do so. The same thing happened to Guatemalans who arrived on regular flights. They were not permitted to enter Costa Rica because they had not gotten their visas in Guatemala. The airlines were left with the task of solving the problem since the new regulation became effective yesterday.

EL SALVADOR

ARENA MINISTERS, OTHER OFFICIALS TO RESIGN

PA230107 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2145 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] We interrupt our regular program to report the following: The problem foreseen here in El Salvador in connection with an imminent government crisis caused by the refusal of the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] ministers and other officials of that political party to tender their resignations to President Alvaro Magana was definitely resolved a few minutes ago. According to Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, those press reports were groundless and irresponsible because the Arena officials had never refused to tender their resignations to President Magana.

Meanwhile, Dr Pablo Mauricio Alvergue, one of the three vice presidents who met this afternoon at the Presidency of the Constituent Assembly, is on his way to Presidential House, since a general consensus has already been reached.

Here is another last-minute detail, regarding which you will hear the voices of the officials concerned: Decree 544, which bans wage increases for the country's public and private sectors, will definitely be amended this afternoon during the Constituent Assembly's last session this year. Here is Dr Alvergue:

[Begin recording] [Question] Good afternoon, doctor. Why did you meet with Major d'Aubuisson in the Constituent Assembly this afternoon?

[Answer] It was (?not) a meeting among the three vice presidents, but rather among the three parties -- the Christian Democratic Party, Arena and the PCN [National Conciliation Party].

[Question] What was the main reason for this meeting, doctor?

[Answer] Reviewing (?our) situtation in connection with the possibility of introducing certain cabinet changes.

[Question] What could these possibilities be, or which of these possibilities are known at this point, doctor?

[Answer] First, the president has invited all (?officials) to tender their resignations. This undoubtedly will have certain repercussions; it (?has been) necessary to review these in order to see how the new cabinet is to be composed.

[Question] Have the three vice presidents -- rather, the three majority political parties -- reached a consensus, or are you trying to convince Arena that its members should tender their resignations as President Magana requested?

[Answer] Well, that decision must be made by each individual party. We are here because Arena invited us to a meeting, so at this point I could not tell you what they are going to tell us. You will have to wait until we come out of the meeting.

[Question] Well, thank you very much, Dr Alvergue. [end recording]

Major d'Aubuisson will now answer some questions:

[Begin recording] [D'Aubuisson] I asked them to please come over mainly because, as you may have realized, this is a very busy day and it would have been very difficult for me to leave, since we must finish the work of this commission in order to organize the plenary session; we must [words indistinct] the plenary session. The various factions had already met, and both the PCN and the Christian Democrats had already been to see Dr Magana. I'm just waiting to leave here so that several members of our own political commission can go see Dr Magana and present the resignations, which are being tendered at the party level. In other words, each party has placed its cabinet posts at Dr Magana's disposal.

[Question] When you talks about resignation, that includes Arena. This is not the same position you previously held, Major.

[Answer] I would like you to tell me when I have voiced a different position from the one I currently hold. Somebody may have commented on this, but I myself have never made any remarks on this subject, nor has the party issued any official statement. What I am now telling you is that we have decided that instead of each minister individually tendering his resignation, each party should place its respective posts at Magana's disposal.

[Question] In short, then, Arena and its ministers will tender their resignation today, as President Magana requested?

[Answer] I had proposed this to Dr Magana before he requested it, a few months ago -- or rather a few days ago, not months. In making my suggestion I did not involve all the ministers, only the Arena ministers. I told him that at the end of the year we would be willing to propose this to him in case there were any adjustments to be made, so the changes could be made at the beginning of next year. Now, we were surprised when Dr Magana made the announcement on Friday, because he did not approach any of the parties to let us know what was being done.

This created a stir, and you see how the media began speculating, and so on. Now, it is one thing to place the posts at his disposal as a protocolary or courtesy measure; it is another to say that the officials will in effect not remain in their posts. Remember that one way or another the assembly will again ratify the cabinet.

[Question] Major D'Aubuisson, what is your opinion about the fact that EL DIARIO DE HOY [words indistinct] attributing to Arena officials the charge that through this action the Christian Democrats and Dr Magana were planning a coup. We understand that EL DIARIO DE HOY is a very serious newspaper, and that it had remarks by several arena officials to back up its report.

[Answer] I really don't know where this information came from. I think the report was published on Monday. Remember that we returned from the plenary session in San Miguel late on Friday, and I took the last flight in. I learned about this matter on Saturday, and the report was published on Monday. We did not provide this information. I don't know how the person responsible for this report analyzed the situation.

[Question] Finally, Major d'Aubuisson, it is being said that in its last session today the Constituent Assembly will abolish Decree 544, which bans wage increases for both private and public employees.

[Answer] No, we are going to approve a wage increase within the budget. We're leaving room so that we can later work well within (?some) government scheme to determine the existing positions on Decree 544, but the decree is not going to be abolished.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] A special greeting to the Salvadoran people, since the Christmas celebrations are near at hand. I wish them a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. God willing, may we really be able to achieve both peace and our economic recovery next year. [end recording]

STATE OF SIEGE EXTENDED 30 MORE DAYS

PA220431 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0006 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Constituent Assembly extended the state of siege for 30 more days today, as "the situation that caused it has continued to prevail" since March 1980. The extension was proposed by President Alvaro Magana and unanimously approved by the Constituent Assembly. The state of siege in El Salvador has been repeatedly extended since it was first imposed. The constitutional guarantees that are suspended as a result include freedom of expression, free movement through the nation's territory, the inviolability of correspondence and the right to hold mass political meetings.

COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER GRANTS INTERVIEW

AU201335 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 15 Dec 82 pp 1-7

[Interview with Communist Party Secretary General Shafick Jorge Handal by RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent Sibila Dimova in Sofia, Bulgaria -- date not given -- uppercase passages originally printed in boldface]

[Text] Shafick Jorge Handal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of El Salvador, who viisted our country, was interviewed by Sibila Dimova, representative of our editorial board.

He told her about the peculiar characteristics of the present offensive of the FMLN of El Salvador and about its political implications.

The military offensive presently conducted by the FMLN represents PART OF THE PROCESS WHICH IS MARKED BY A DISRUPTION TO OUR ADVANTAGE OF THE STRATEGIC MILITARY BALANCE THAT EXISTED UNTIL MARCH 1982 BETWEEN OUR FORCES AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS. I am talking about the greatest hitherto existing series of offensive operations conducted by the FMLN and about their scope. In October and November 1982 alone we removed 1,230 people from the ranks of the enemy's troops -- among whom were dead soldiers, wounded and prisoners. A new factor is the fact that the number of prisoners is now equal to that of those killed and in certain cases exceeds it -- this fact is very indicative of the enemy's combat spirit. Within 2 months we captured between 235 and 300 prisoners and about 560 weapons -- guns, machineguns and rifles, as well as a large amount of ammunition. Our losses within the same period amounted to 73 people, with less than a quarter of this number killed. According to official data provided by the Defense Ministry, the operational staff of the enemy troops is between 10,000 and 11,000 people. Consequently, in October and November 1982 the FMLN took out of action over 10 percent of the enemy's forces.

The commanders of the Slavadoran Army have not yet admitted that we are taking prisoners, despite the fact that they were forced to permit Red Cross representatives to take over the prisoners in the partisan camps. Officially they are talking about people who have "disappeared," among whom are also prisoners and deserters. From January 1981 to the present the enemy has been forced to replenish approximately 60 percent of the army's personnel who have been taken out of action. This represents a great drain on the enemy's forces which is difficult to make up for, especially the number of officers, which was insufficient to begin with. The Salvadoran Army today is recruiting youths between 16 and 17 years old, while the officers staff is being complemented by sending people to the United States for 5 to 6 months of training. This practice has proven a real disaster for the dictatorial regime -- the young people from bourgeois families are subjected to anticommunist ideological indoctrination in U.S. military schools, they are coming back brutalized, filled with deep hatred against the people and ready to engage in genocide. Actually they do not have the necessary professional military training, so that they are simply bad fighters.

THE GREAT PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE PARTISANS IN THE FIELD OF MILITARY OPERATIONAL TACTICS IS A CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF THE PRESENT FMLN OFFENSIVE. We are now capable of implementing great and large-scale operations with the participation of numerous people. As a result of this, the enemy is suffering much greater losses than in the past. New operational tactics give priority to attacking the enemy when he is in motion. We are already capable of taking advantage of the penetration of a great number of enemy forces in our territories and to transform their offensives into a withdrawal. In the past we were unable to apply this tactic because we had to train commanders capable of leading great numbers of combat units. Now, hundreds of people are fighting on our side, while thousands are on the side of the regime. This requires our fighting men to display more than pure "partisan-like skills." We needed time to train our troops, and we are already organizing our offensive in such a manner as to provoke the enemy into moving and then attacking it. This is not the rule, of course. Whenever we encounter smaller groups against which we are capable of concentrating all our forces, we attack them on the spot. Our goal is to destroy part of the detachment and take the others prisoner. In order to defend such a position, the enemy must move its fortifications, which we are capable of effectively attacking.

After the balance of forces began to be disrupted to our advantage, the Salvadoran Government troops became aware that because of prolonged exhaustion and losses, especially because of the shortage of officers, they could not resist us merely with the U.S. assistance in the form of weapons and military advisers. A moment came when they realized that the more weapons that were delivered to the regime, the more we were seizing. Naturally, the deterioration of combat spirit and morale are an additional handicap. Through its own mass media the FMLN is explaining to the soldiers and officers of the regime that we are not personally fighting against them but against the system and the army which subject them to the service of imperialism and the local oligarchy. They already know that we respect prisoners, that we take care of them when they are wounded and that we set them free. Being aware of this, they prefer to surrender to us, of course, instead of being killed. Some of them stay to fight in our ranks.

THE SALVADORAN REGIME, FOLLOWING WASHINGTON'S ADVICE, STUBBORNLY CONTINUES TO REJECT OUR NEGOTIATION PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE PRIOR CONDITIONS. If they persist in this refusal, deprived of commonsense, the imperialists will have no other choice than to attack us with foreign troops, since -- as I already pointed out -- the Salvadoran Army is incapable "of coping" with us. Who can these foreign troops be? The Honduran Army is incapable of fulfilling the mission "to exterminate us." On the other hand, there are few officers in that country inclined to render assistance to an army which during the "soccer war" of 1969 attacked its own country. In addition to this, the United States has assigned another task to Honduras: that of counterrevolutionary aggression against Nicaragua, which cannot be carried out without the assistance of Honduran military personnel. The present ruling circles in the United States are obviously considering the possible internationalization of the conflict in El Salvador as a cover for U.S. interference in the form of "pacification." As long as President Reagan rules in the White House this possibility cannot be excluded. With his stand on the war in the South Atlantic and his sanctions regarding the Siberian-West European gas pipeline, he has proven he is capable of adopting decisions that exert negative effects on the interests of the United States itself. This possibility should, therefore, not be excluded; however, at the same time we must take into consideration the fact that the aggressive U.S. policy against Central America is meeting increasing resistance even within the United States.

If Washington will not send troops to assist the regime in El Salvador, the only possible way out for the rulers of El Salvador will be to negotiate with us. We are prepared for negotiations without any preliminary conditions whatsoever, and we will continue to insist on such negotiations. We will persist in the military offensive at the same time. Some of our friends abroad recently doubted the possibility of our victory, because they analyzed only the military aspect of the question: the FMLN against an army supported by the United States. This battle, however, is not only a clash of arms -- it has its political and diplomatic aspects as well.

It has always been obvious to us that the conflict is a combination of armed struggle, political struggle and diplomatic struggle and we are developing our efforts along the lines of this combination. This is precisely why we can say without superfluous optimism, but quite confidently, that victory now seems already closer.

GUATEMALA

KIDNAPPERS ACCUSE REGIMES OF COMPLICITY WITH U.S.

PA221248 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1159 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Plans for an alleged U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and the political situation in Central America are the main points in the manifesto issued by the guerrilla group that has kidnapped the daughter of the Honduran president, according to reports received by ACAN-EFE.

The document, bearing the logo of the self-styled People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP), states that the group's command kidnapped Xiomara Suazo Estrada on 14 December in order to force the document's publication.

The guerrillas, who also claimed credit for the kidnapping of Health Minister Roquelino Recinos during the previous administration, give a detailed explanation of the alleged U.S. plans to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

The guerrillas assert that Honduras is getting $500 million in U.S. aid and that Honduras has also resorted to Israel "to supply more arms, training and instruction."

They label Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova, Xiomara's father, a "pawn in the U.S. plans."

They accuse Costa Rica of cooperating with U.S. plans by lending their territory so that anti-Sandinist groups can harass and attack Nicaragua.

Xiomara Suazo's kidnappers say that after Torrijos' death, which they call "murder," and President's Royo's subsequent ouster, Panama "has suffered further from the forces of imperialist domination."

Besides attacking the Salvadoran Government and Washington's policy on El Salvador, the guerrillas claim that the FMLN is getting ready for the "final and decisive battle."

In their document the guerrillas accuse Guatemalan President Gen Efrain Rios Montt of "massacring peasants" and claim that 120,000 people have died as a result of political violence in Guatemala since 1954.

In conclusion the MRP kidnappers say: "The enemy says we have been destroyed, that we are finished. On the contrary, we are strong and prepared to continue fighting to the end."

HONDURAS

BOMB EXPLODES AT LA PRENSA NEWSPAPER OFFICES

PA230414 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 0338 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Excerpt] We have a last-minute report from San Pedro Sula. A high-powered bomb has just exploded at the LA PRENSA newspaper of San Pedro Sula. The bomb went off at a few minutes past 2100 tonight, Thursday [as heard] in front of the LA PRENSA newspaper building in downtown San Pedro Sula. The building was seriously damaged.

Workers were in the building preparing Thursday's edition of LA PRENSA when the bomb went off. Material damage has been reported. The bomb explosion shook the entire city. We are reporting from the very site of the explosion in San Pedro Sula. What is your name?

[Answer] Juan Pablo Aguilar Funes.

[Question] Are you the guard here at LA PRENSA?

[Answer] Yes, I am one of the guards. I work at the desk.

[Question] At what time did the bomb explode?

[Answer] A few minutes after 2100. All we heard was this very loud explosion.

[Question] Where did the bomb explode?

[Answer] I don't know. All of a sudden I was covered with pieces of glass and there was smoke everywhere.

[Question] What sort of damage was inflicted?

[Answer] Only material damage to the building. We have not yet ascertained if any of the equipment was damaged.

[Question] We were told that the southern part of the building, the storage areas, were seriously damaged. Yes, dear listeners, there is serious damage to the installations of the newspaper LA PRENSA: broken glass and bent iron bars, caused by a strong explosion. Did you see any suspicious persons before or during the blast?

[Answer] There was no sign of anything in my line of sight. I believe that the bomb exploded inside the building.

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS U.S. REJECTS DIALOGUE

PA230445 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto today charged that the Washington government refuses to open a dialogue with the Sandinist government in search of political solutions to the Central American crisis. He also charged that the U.S. Administration is forcing Honduras to reject a discussion of bilateral problems, for the sole purpose of strangling the Sandinist people's revolution. He repeated that the government junta wants peace and is willing to hold a dialogue with the United States in order to reach an understanding. However, he said, we demand that our right to self-determination be respected since we shape our own destiny. Finally, he said that the U.S. leaders cannot resign themselves to the fact that a profound and irreversible change is taking place in Nicaragua.

D'ESCOTO REVIEWS FOREIGN POLICY DURING 1982

PA230431 Paris AFP in Spanish 0153 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Managua, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has labeled Honduran Defense Minister Gen Gustavo Alvarez "the new Somoza of Central America." Reviewing Nicaragua's foreign policy during 1982 -- which, according to the foreign minister, has won "prestige, admiration and respect" for his country -- D'Escoto asserted that "Nicaragua's only problems in the area of international relations are with the United States and Honduras."

"In fact, we need not have any problems with Honduras," he explained, adding that "our problem is connected with the aggressive and interventionist policy that the Reagan administration pursues from Honduras."

According to him, Washington has selected Honduras as "the spearhead in the war for power that it is waging against Nicaragua." He added that in the neighboring country the United States has a "new Alexander Haig in Central America," a reference to Minister Alvarez who, according to D'Escoto, "has surrendered his country to U.S. imperialism."

"He is the new Somoza of Central America," D'Escoto stressed, and he called Alvarez a dominating factor in his country's policy, whose authority is above that of President Roberto Suazo Cordova.

D'Escoto added that "Honduras is ruled by the United States through its proconsul, Ambassador Negroponte, who in turn imparts the imperialists' orders to General Alvarez."

According to the Nicaraguan foreign minister, it is not true that after the most recent elections the Honduran military returned power to the civilians. He added that "this situation torments Honduras Foreign Minister Paz Barnica and contradicts his genuinely democratic line."

D'Escoto termed Nicaragua's diplomatic relations with both Guatemala and El Salvador normal, although he said that relations with the latter "are not as good as we would like them to be."

Regarding Costa Rica, he said that it is obvious that since President Luis Alberto Monge came to power "our relations have undergone certain changes."

In his analysis of Nicaraguan diplomatic achievements in 1982 D'Escoto highlighted Nicaragua's election to a UN Security Council seat and the Nonaligned Movement's decision to hold a ministerial meeting in Managua next month.

He announced that 41 countries have agreed to attend the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau, and that the Sandinist government expects more than 60 (?delegations) to participate in the meeting in Managua.

D'Escoto pointed out that Nicaragua has managed to maintain excellent relations with almost all of the Latin American countries as well as those of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Arab world.

He said that Israel "is an extension of imperialism and the quintessence of isolation due to the shameful and deplorable support" that the Reagan administration has given "this warmongering and mercenary regime."

D'Escoto said that the Soviet Union "is way ahead in the policy to ensure peace in the world," and he condemned the nuclear threat, "which appears to have become an unbridled race in the United States."

The foreign minister reiterated that the government junta has not yet received a reply to its invitation to Pope John Paul II to visit Nicaragua, and said that the fact that Nicaragua maintains diplomatic relations with the Vatican means that the visit must be made within the customary government protocol.

This was in reply to a question regarding the possibility of the pope being attended to by only the Catholic hierarchy during his visit to Nicaragua.

D'Escoto also announced officially that Francisco Fiallos Navarro is no longer the Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington and said that it was up to Fiallos to explain his reasons for making statements contrary to the Sandinist government's foreign policy to the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA. LA PRENSA was not able to publish his statements because the Media Directorate forbade it to do so.

SOCIALIST AID SEMINAR 'OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE'

PA182320 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Dec 82 p 4

[Text] A seminar held in Managua to discuss prospects for economic and commercial cooperation with the socialist bloc nations was of great significance for Nicaragua's future, Dr Anatoliy Oshani, expert with the International Institute for Economic Problems in CEMA's Socialist System, told Alezandr Mojov, APN reporter in Moscow.

When the members of the CEMA delegation addressed the seminar, the Soviet economist added, they provided information to the representatives of Nicaraguan ministries and departments on various aspects of CEMA's activities, the nature of socialist integration and the experience gained in the development of relations between the socialist nations and the 92 Asian, African and Latin American states. These bonds constitute a completely new formula for international cooperation, helping to overcome the developing nations' economic backwardness, to create a modern and multifaceted economy, to organize the process of productive growth on a national basis and, in the final analysis, to strengthen the developing nations' independence.

In their addresses at the seminar, the diplomatic and commercial CEMA representatives who work in Managua noted that even though Nicaragua's economic-commercial relations with the CEMA nations are at an early stage, the intergovernment accords already signed in 1980-1982 established a solid legal foundation for cooperation in the most important sectors of Nicaragua's economy.

Following are some examples: It goes without saying that Nicaragua has practically no energy resources potential and is therefore thoroughly dependent on imports of oil and its byproducts. That is why cooperation with the USSR in developing a plan for the use of the resources in the Rio Grande Basin, in Matagalpa, and for the construction of a 350,000-kw hydroelectric plant is of great importance to the nation's economy. This plant will increase Nicaragua's energy-producing capability by 40 percent, with a concomitant reduction in oil imports.

The USSR has also begun to aid Nicaragua in mineral prospecting and in developing its mining industry. The purpose of this cooperation is to expand the nation's export capacity. Bulgarian organizations have also voiced interest in participating in such projects.

Czechoslovak specialists are discussing practical problems in rebuilding the textile industry with their Nicaraguan colleagues.

One of the primary Nicaraguan projects will be the Tipitapa-Calcatoya sugarmill, which Cuba has promised to build. Once this mill begins operation, Nicaragua's sugar exports will double.

Cuba is also aiding the development of the fishing industry, having already donated 22 vessels for shrimp and lobster fishing to Sandino's fatherland.

An important contribution in improving the Nicaraguan workers' living conditions is the construction, with Cuban assistance, of five factories that will produce prefabricated wall panelings, permitting the construction of 5,000 apartments per year. One of these factories is already in operation in (Leon).

Cooperation between Nicaragua and the socialist nations is also being developed in such areas as road and port construction, transportation and communications. The amount of automobiles, road construction machinery, tractors, farm machinery, tool-making machines, chemical products, medicine and foodstuffs supplied by CEMA member nations is growing rapidly. In exchange for all this, Nicaragua is providing the socialist nations with traditional export products: coffee, sugar, cotton, etc.

Agreements are already being reached on joint activities by planning committees from the USSR and the GDR on one hand and the Nicaraguan Planning Ministry on the other. These agreements deal with practical assistance from these countries' specialists to government organizations in drafting economic plans and programs for Nicaragua.

The CEMA member nations' cooperation also helps to solve problems in the areas of education and public health that have been raised by the Nicaraguan Government, Anatoliy Opshani explained. Assistance from these countries in training Nicaraguan specialists continues to expand.

There are currently over 700 Nicaraguans in the USSR studying 25 different careers, including hydroelectricity, mining, biology, geology, oil engineering, naval engineering and agriculture. Some 300 more Nicaraguans are scheduled to arrive in the USSR in 1983 to study. Cuba has granted 1,200 scholarships so that Nicaraguan professionals may be trained in a variety of economic, scientific and technological areas. Cuban teachers are providing instruction in Nicaraguan schools in irrigation, terrain improvement, cattle raising, etc.

Five training centers will soon begin operation in Nicaragua to create experts in politics, enefgy, farm mechanization, mining and fishing. These will be built with assistance from the USSR. GDR organizations have also expressed interest in providing equipment for these centers.

A brigade of Cuban doctors is making a significant contribution to the nation's public health. Soviet doctors and nurses work in a hospital near Chinandega, equipped by donations from the Soviet people. Another hospital is being planned with Soviet cooperation.

JUAN ALMEIDA CONTINUES TOUR OF AFRICA

Decorated in Guinea-Bissau

FL221140 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] The highest medal bestowed by the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the (Colina Seboe) National Order, was presented to Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, who is paying an official visit to that country.

The medal was pinned on Juan Almeida's chest by Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of Guinea-Bissau, who noted that the Cuban vice president has been one of the main contributors in promoting our people's solidarity with the fraternal nation of Guinea-Bissau since the beginning of the national liberation struggle. Juan Almeida responded by saying that he was accepting the highest medal of Guinea-Bissau on behalf of the Cuban combatants who fell in that African country and of those who were happy to see their dreams fulfilled with the liberation of that African country.

Meets With Zambian President

FL222345 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Cuban Vice President Juan Almeida Bosque has delivered a message from Fidel to Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda during a meeting held in Lusaka. Almeida is on an official 5-day visit to Zambia leading a high-level delegation that will review matters related to the seventh summit of the Nonaligned Movement slated to be held in the Indian capital.

Before arriving in Zambia, the Cuban delegation paid official visits to Tanzania, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau and held meetings with Ethiopian authorities during a stopover there. The Cuban delegation will spend the next 2 days on a tour of southern Zambia, visiting the (Kopepearl) industrial zone.

RAMIRO VALDES ARRIVES IN BULGARIA 22 DEC

FL230030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez, member of the party Politburo and vice president of Cuba's Councils of State and Ministers, today arrived in Sofia, Bulgaria, on a friendly visit. The Cuban interior minister, who arrived from Hungary, was received at the local airport by his Bulgarian counterpart, Dimitur Stoyanov, and other local officials.

This is the third stage of the Cuban leader's tour of European socialist countries. He had earlier paid visits to Czechoslovakia and Hungary where he held talks with CSSR Interior Minister Jaromir Obzina and Hungarian Interior Minister Istvan Horvath.

RADIO CITES STATEMENTS PRAISING SOVIET SYSTEM

PA221904 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Rene Theodore, secretary general of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, said that the USSR emerged as a vivid example of the application of the principles of equality among nations and the peoples' right to self-determination.

At a meeting in Moscow on occasion of the 60th anniversary of the USSR, Theodore said that these principles are natural results of the great internationalist struggle that ended capitalism in Russia and eliminated the Czarist Empire.

In another Moscow meeting, Luis Corvalan, secretary general of the Chilean Communist Party, said that the sacrifices that the Soviet people have had to make for the sake of the noble causes that have inspired them, are admired by all progressive men in the world and assures their gratitude.

Meanwhile, in La Paz, Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo said that the formation of the USSR 60 years ago marked the beginning of a new era in the history of international relations. He added that the Soviet experience is creating a state in which equality, unity, and social justice prevail is of great importance for all underdeveloped countries.

In Georgetown, Guyana, Malcolm Harris, leader of the People's National Congress party, said that the USSR's 60th anniversary is of enormous historical significance to the progressive world and especially to the peoples in developing countries.

UKRAINIAN EDUCATION MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL222030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Georgiy Grigor'yevich Yefimenko, minister of higher and secondary specialized education of the Ukranian Soviet Socialist Republic, has arrived in Cuba. He will extend his visit until 28 December to complete an extensive work schedule.

Upon his arrival in our country, the Ukrainian minister was welcomed at Jose Marti air terminal by his Cuban counterpart Fernando Vecino Alegret. The two held a meeting this morning at the main offices of the Ministry of Higher Education.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ARGENTINA, URUGUAY APPROVE ALADI TRADE AGREEMENT

PY221526 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Argentina and Uruguay were the first two countries to approve an agreement on economic complementary actions under the new ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] legal system. The document establishes that the two countries will increase bilateral trade considerably. In the strictly commercial field, the agreement foresees an exemption plan whereby the two countries will totally exempt each other from paying tariffs and from any kind of restrictions that might be imposed on reciprocal importation of a variety of products.

ECUADOR TO ATTEND AMAZON COUNTRIES SUMMIT

PA220439 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Luis Valencia has said that Ecuador will attend the meeting of the Amazon countries' heads of state. The leading Ecuadorean diplomat said in a communique that the invitation, which was extended by Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda, served to clarify recent statements by Colombian President Belisario Betancur in which Ecuador was not mentioned as an Amazon country. According to the Ecuadorean communique, Lloreda said that there was an involuntary error in President Betancur's statement. Colombia regards Ecuador as an Amazon country and sees no room for doubt that it will participate in the presidental meeting, the chief Colombian diplomat said. The meeting proposed by the Colombian head of state, may be held in mid-1983.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JUAN BOSCH RESIGNS FROM PARTY, RETIRES

FL230040 Bridgetown CANA in English 2349 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, Dec 22, CANA-REUTER -- Juan Bosch, a former president of the Dominican Republic and a major figure in its political life for the last 20 years, today resigned as leader of his party, effectively retiring from public life. He said today in his resignation letter that he was stepping down as leader of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) he formed in 1973 to show that it could survive without him.

PENA GOMEZ BACK FROM FRANCE; AGREEMENTS SIGNED

FL181630 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez yesterday announced he signed three agreements with the French Government during his 3-week European tour. The agreements, which will benefit the Santo Domingo city hall, were signed on Saturday last week by Dr Pena Gomez and French President Francois Mitterrand. The (?mayor of Santo Domingo) refused to elaborate on the nature of the agreements signed, saying that he must first report to President Salvador Jorge Blanco. Dr Pena Gomez said his tour of Europe yielded more than he expected. He said he was able to acquire economic and material aid for the city hall that he had not even considered.

PARAGUAY

PEACE CORPS CONTRACT 'APPARENTLY' TO BE CANCELLED

PY221419 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 22 Dec 82 p 11

[From the "Between the Lines" column: "Peace Corps"]

[Text] "The Peace Corps, one of the U.S. Government's auxiliary organizations, will presumably give up its activities in the country. Apparently the government will cancel the Peace Corps' contract, a measure that will be adopted, according to some rumors, in view of the problems that some of its members have had recently. In addition to this fact, members of the Peace Corps have been linked to the crime in which an Austrian, Krenmayer, was murdered and which still remains a mystery. Of course, there is no official information, neither from the U.S. Embassy or from official Paraguayan organizations, about the future of the Peace Corps."

(The murder of the Austrian continues to gain the attention of the public.)

VENEZUELA

131 BODIES RECOVERED, FIRE EXTINGUISHED

PA220435 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] One hundred and thirty-one bodies have been recovered in Tacoa. According to (Jose Gabriel Lugo), director of the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], the PTJ coroner has identified 34 bodies.

It was also reported that experts in oil fires and Petroven officials put out the fire at Tacoa.

Meanwhile, the situation at Catia la Mar, where the victims of the tragedy were lodged, is becoming critical because of inadequate sanitary facilities. Civil defense officials are urging citizens to help by sending medicine and foodstuffs.

OPEC MEETING TERMED 'POSITIVE' FOR COUNTRY

PA221446 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Leonardo Montiel Ortega [not further identified] has said that the OPEC meeting that recently ended in Vienna was positive for Venezuela because no production quotas were established.

Similarly, the fact that the price per barrel of oil was kept at $34 was also favorable. Montiel Ortega noted that the establishment of production quotas would have been unfavorable for Venezuela, since this would have meant a reduction of more than 7 million bolivars in oil revenues.

As for the prices, he said that multinational enterprises and countries with high oil consumption want to keep prices at the present levels. This would be part of a strategy to replace oil with coal because if prices go down the substitution would not work.